



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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Testimony of
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before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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**SUPPORT
SB 2963, SD2, HD1
RELATING TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY.**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports SB 2963, SD2, HD1, which requires and establishes deadlines for all state facilities, except smaller facilities, to implement cost-effective energy efficiency measures; directs HSEO to collect utility bill and energy usage data for state-owned buildings and to make the data publicly available; provides that agencies that perform energy efficiency retrofitting may continue to receive appropriations for such measures; and beginning 7/1/2023, requires, where feasible and cost-effective, the design of all new state building construction to maximize energy and water efficiency, maximize energy generation potential, and use building materials that reduce the carbon footprint of the project.

HSEO supports SB 2963, SD2, HD1, to maximize the near-term savings and long-term energy performance of state buildings. The objectives of energy efficiency, cost control, lower energy bills, and leading by example outlined in SB 2963, SD2, HD1, are consistent with HSEO's mission in accordance with Section 196-71(a), Hawai'i Revised Statutes. It is also consistent with the Chief Energy Officer's duties, set forth in Section [196-72](#) of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes, to "provide technical assistance to state and county agencies to assess and implement projects and programs related to energy

conservation and efficiency, renewable energy, clean transportation, energy resiliency, and related measures.”

HSEO agrees that energy efficiency is the most cost-effective way to reduce energy usage. HSEO works with state agencies on facility benchmarking, energy audits, and energy savings performance contracts. HSEO has observed there are always more, and sometimes new, energy savings and bill reduction opportunities.

HSEO also agrees that designing new state buildings to maximize energy and water efficiency, identifying energy generation potential, and using building materials that reduce the carbon footprint, where feasible and cost-effective, are in alignment with the State's clean energy and decarbonization goals.

HSEO is working closely with Hawai'i Energy and state agencies on an energy efficiency for state buildings project to assess and promote opportunities to reduce energy use. HSEO has consistently been measuring facility electricity reduction using 2005 as the baseline year. The use of 2005 as the baseline year is consistent with the United States' baseline year in its commitment pursuant to the Paris Agreement, which Hawai'i committed to support and to “be aligned with” in Part I of [Act 32 of 2017](#). HSEO's analysis shows since 2005, state agencies' total electricity consumption has declined by 20 percent. HSEO believes with Legislative and Administrative support, that amount can increase to 25 percent by 2025.

To effectively and efficiently achieve Hawai'i's renewable energy and decarbonization goals, high quality, reliable energy data is necessary for the transformation of Hawaii's energy system and to support economic development and innovation. Act 122, SLH 2019, recognized this by tasking HSEO with leading data governance for energy. HSEO is responsible to identify, track, and report key performance measures and milestones related to the State's energy and decarbonization goals. While the Senate Committee on Ways and Means is currently considering HB 1600, HD1 for decision making, the House Committee on Finance provided in HB 1600, HD1 general funds for a cloud-hosted data lake at HSEO to serve as a single source repository for energy- related data, and other data that have been identified as necessary to fuel a data-driven approach to analyzing, formulating, and

recommending policies and plans to achieve the State's energy goals. One of the driving outcomes of the project is to increase data sharing and information dissemination. HB 1600, HD1 also provides a position and funds for a Data Science Specialist. The position will support operating a data governance framework for data policies, standards, and practices to achieve the required level of consistency, quality, and protection to meet specific office needs. The position will interface with state departments, county agencies, industry, public, and other stakeholder groups in an effort to design, develop, and implement this framework. Sharing monthly utility bill and energy usage data for state-owned facilities through a portal such as the data lake supported by the Data Science Specialist would greatly increase the accessibility and reproducibility of datasets and allow for streamlined data updates should that budget become adopted into law.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.